

**Amendments to the Abstract:**

Please rewrite the Abstract to read as follows:

Abstract of the Disclosure

A method for producing a bonded article composed of a first substrate, a second substrate, and a bonding layer through which the first and second substrates are bonded is disclosed. ~~This method to one another~~ includes the steps of interposing a water-based bonding agent between the first and second substrates, and forming the bonding layer by heating the water-based bonding agent. The water-based bonding agent contains an alkali metal element, and has a water-soluble compound dissolved therein. The water-soluble compound produces a composite oxide ~~by~~ upon heating.